

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with lyrics 'Row, row, row your boat, gent - ly down the stream.' The melody features three eighth-note triplets. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'Mer - ri - ly mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly mer - ri - ly, life is but a dream.' This staff also features several eighth-note triplets. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Row, row, row your boat, gent - ly down the stream.

Mer - ri - ly mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly mer - ri - ly, life is but a dream.

ROW ROW ROW YOUR BOAT

SINGING

Introduce the song as a mystery tune. The leader(teacher) claps the rhythmic pattern (words) of the song. The leader makes his hands go up and down to correspond with the highs and lows of the tune. Students guess the identity of the song by checking out songs suggested through singing the clapped song in their heads. After identifying the song in this way, sing together the whole song. Sing the song while cupping hands to make a boat. Have the boat be a finger and move on the palm of the other hand and sing the song again. Have the boat be your whole body and move around the room singing the song. Practice clapping the rhythmic pattern while singing the song.

PLAYING

Use classroom rhythm instruments to accompany the song. Play the steady beat. Play the rhythm pattern of the words. Use the triplet pattern of "Merrily, Merrily, Merrily, Merrily," as an ostinato.

CREATING

Students can create a performance combining singing, moving to the song, playing instruments to accompany the song, adding ostinati using phrases of the song, and acting out the words of the song.

LISTENING

When students can sing the song in unison, divide into groups and sing the song as a round. What do you notice about the sound? Start the round in different places, first after the beginning phrase. Then start the second group after the first group sings "Row." What happened? Start the singing of the second group after the first group sings the first two phrases. How does the song sound? Which way do you like best? Have a conversation about the sound of the singing and how else might the group arrange the round singing.

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

Language Arts – Math

Beat Game

1. With your own two fists, tap the beat as you sing the song.
2. Closed standing circle, facing center, shoulders touching, both fists held in front of each person. Receive the beat on one fist and pass it with the other while singing the song all together.
3. Pass the beat in a circle but stop when the song gets to the first "merrily." At that time, the person will begin a sequence that was agreed upon before the game began. Instead of singing, "merrily," it could go 2,4,6,8 or A,B,C,D or students' names or months of the year or days of the week.

Halloween Words

Treat, treat, treat tonight. This is Halloween. Trickery, trickery, trickery, trickery. Goblins on the scene. Make up other words for the tune, keeping the same rhythm pattern as the original.